

ムサシ
MUSASHI #9





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By Miyuki Takahashi

Volume 8

The story so far...

The history of mankind has been one of wars. relentless warring would have doomed the planet to annihilation. Instead of for Ultimate Blue, a secret organization also known as "The Other United Nations," and its team of super agents, Musashi Nine, or Shinonosuke Koga as who is known, is one of them. While undercover at a high school for boys, Musashi's boyfriend, Tachibana Shingo who helps her bring down an international crime syndicate. Shingo's affection for Musashi becomes uncontrollable yet he is torn apart knowing they belong in different worlds. Nine understands all too well the risks involved and accordingly takes her own death. Shingo refuses to believe Nine is dead and sets out on a personal odyssey to find her. Meanwhile, Nine is assigned important missions one after the other even though the painful memories of their parting remain fresh.



Musashi

Ultimate Blue agent #9. An elite agent with the ability to change the course of world history, working for a clandestine organization also referred to as "The Other United Nations." Has been trained as an agent since childhood. Often mistakes for a man but is in fact a woman. While on her missions, she frequently will change her name in order to conceal her identity. Faked her own death and left Shingo, but she still has feelings for him. At least guarded moments, her expressions belie her feelings.



The history of mankind has been one of wars. Race. Religion. Philosophy. The causes are untold.

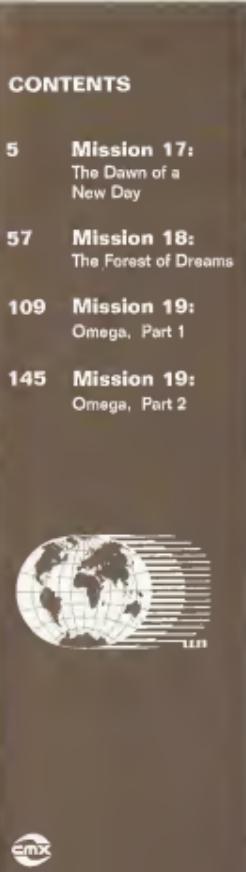
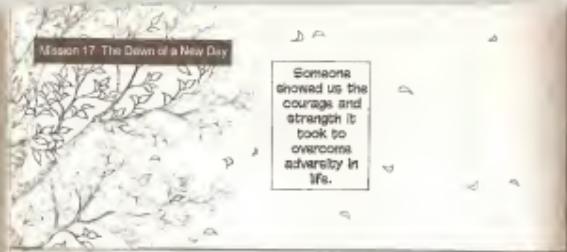
The contestants have their own justifications, but on occasion, some create a volatile situation that threatens to destroy the world.

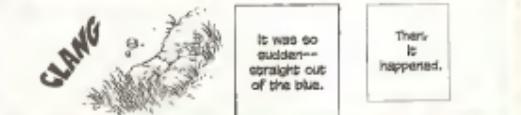
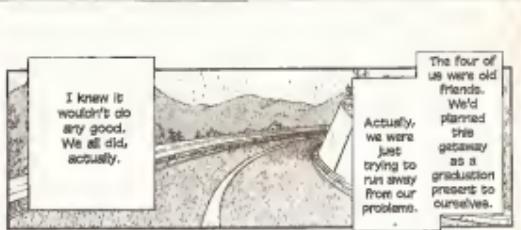


Ultimate Blue.
An organization shrouded in complete secrecy. Also known as "the other United Nations." Nobody knows when it was created. Nobody knows where it is based.

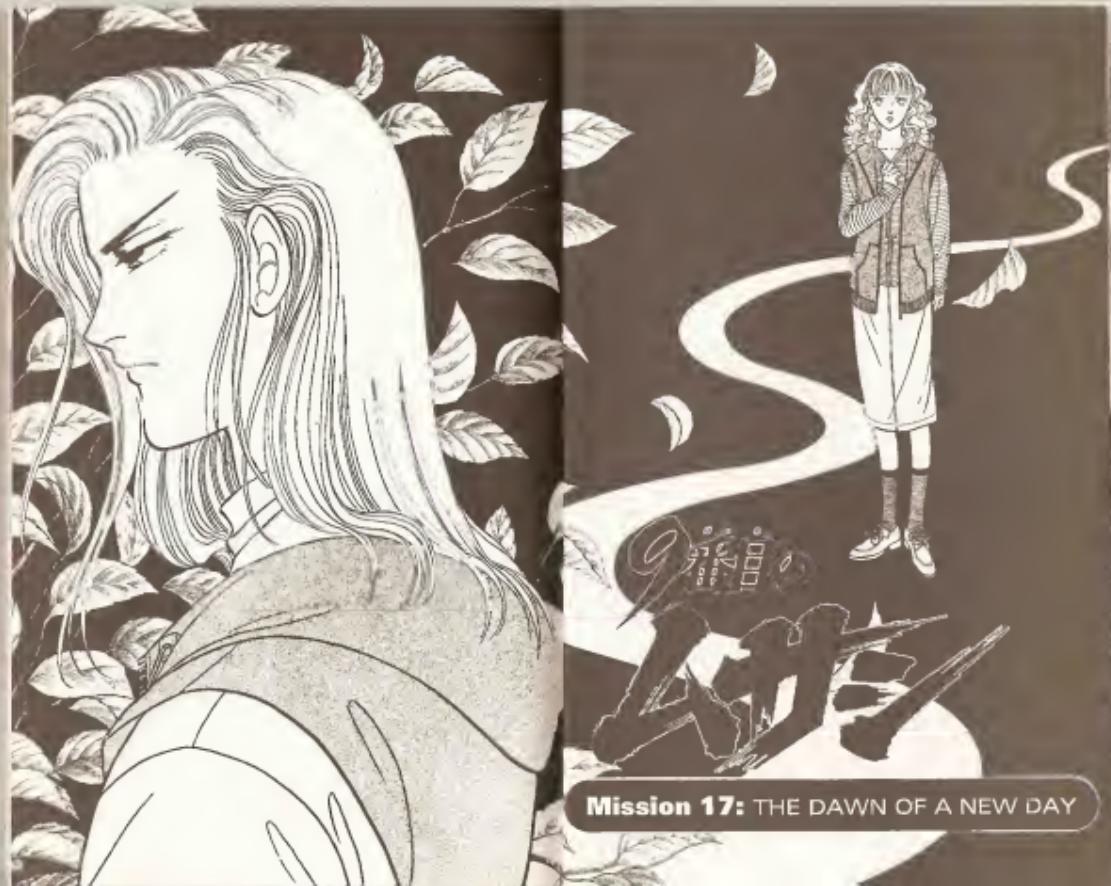
The Blue of the Seas.
The Blue of the Skies.
The Blue of the Earth.

The last line of defense against chaos.





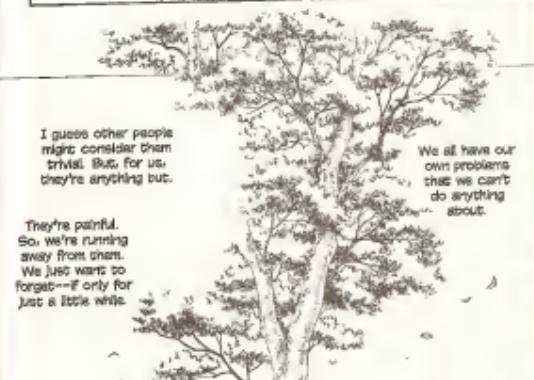
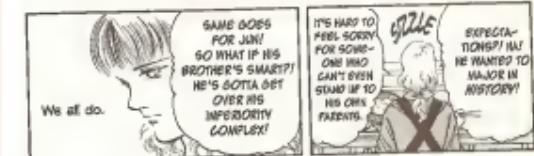




Mission 17: THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY











I don't know what made me think that.

In any case, all of us were left speechless. The person seemed that heavy.

It's like our "guest" was a part of the forest.

Right away, I could tell our newcomer didn't lead a normal life.



He looks so strong.

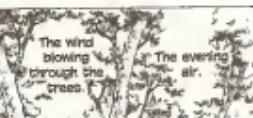
Handsome.

Mysterious.



We stopped in our tracks.

For a second, no one could say anything.

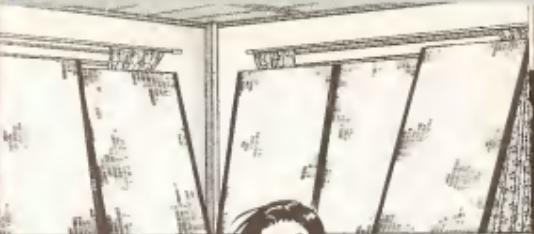
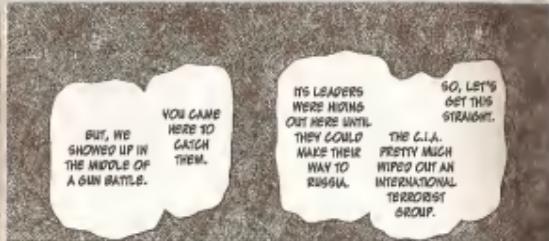


The wind blowing through the trees.

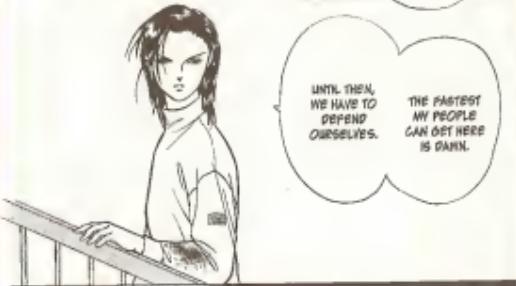
The evening air.



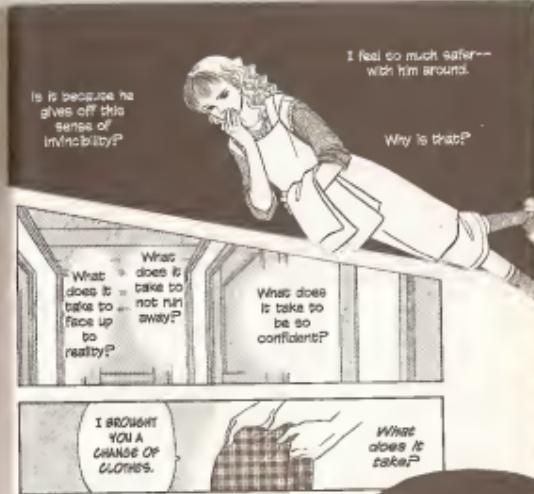
























So do we.

All of us have our own personal demons. In the end, we have to face them alone.

For tomorrow. For us.

She may have been fighting-- all by herself.

But, she was fighting for us-- and for the person she loved.

She had a reason to fight.

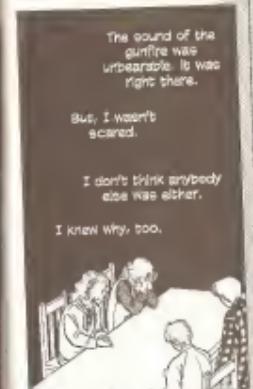


It's up to us to find the light at the end of the tunnel.



With that, she walked out the door.

The gunfire started right away.

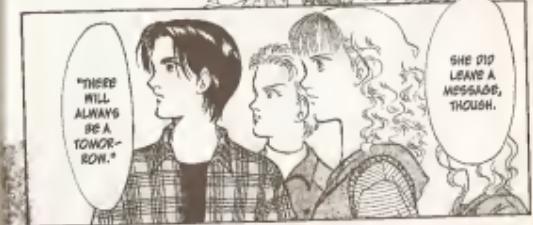


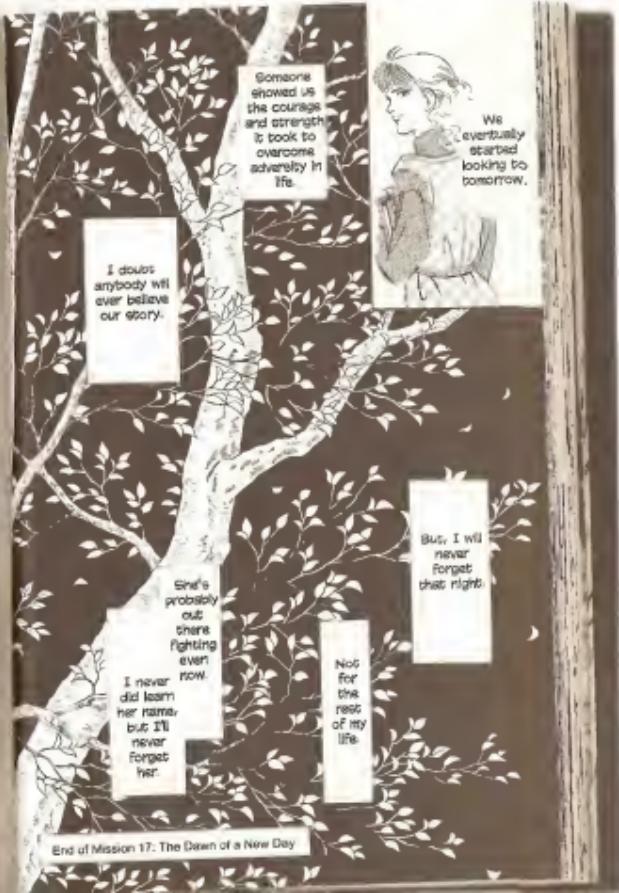


We were fine
during the
fighting.



I'm not the
same person
I was
yesterday.





Mission 16. The Forest of Dreams

I see the forest in my dreams.

It's on the edge
where reality meets
fantasy.

In its wild but
fantastic
creatures roam
free.

The forest does exist.

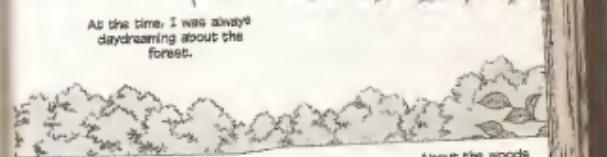
It invites us—lures
us—into a world of
fantasy.





Mission 18: The Forest of Dreams





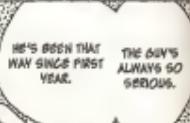
I have nothing but good memories of that place. It was the one spot I felt at ease.

About the morning mist hanging over the lake.

About the woods surrounding Grandma's house where I live when I was a kid.

About the trees I used to climb.

About the creek where my dad and I used to go fishing for trout.



Those idiots.





I inherited
my ability
to draw
from
grandma.



"Rather than take a photo, draw it if it's worth remembering.



"That way, both
your hands and
eyes will help you
remember."



WHO'S IN
CHARGE
HERE?

EXCUSE ME.
CAN YOU
HELP ME?



I haven't
drawn a
single
picture
since I
came here.



I sketched
all the places
I loved as a
kid.



But,
look
at
this.

Huh?
That's the
guy.

IT'S AN
EVIL
SKETCHBOOK.
PEOPLE WHO
TOUCH IT
BECOME
GHOSTS, SO I
HAD TO
THROW IT AWAY
IN THE FOREST.

I'M
NOT.

I DON'T
KNOW YOU
WERE INTO
DRAWING.

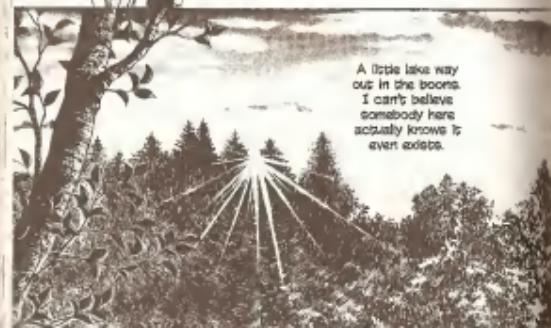


CHIHO
CHIHIRO
GOSZ

That's who they
were talking about.

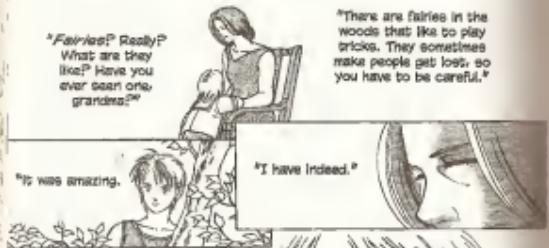


But, look how
thin that guy
is. What do
the girls see in
a toothpick like
him?





"Listen very carefully, my child."



"It was amazing."



"It was that beautiful."

"You could almost say it was divine."



Are the little boys and girls still sleeping?
It's mornings like this that make camping great. These losers would never understand that.



I'll try to find a good spot to sketch.

I thought he said it was dangerous on the other side.

That's the guy from yesterday!

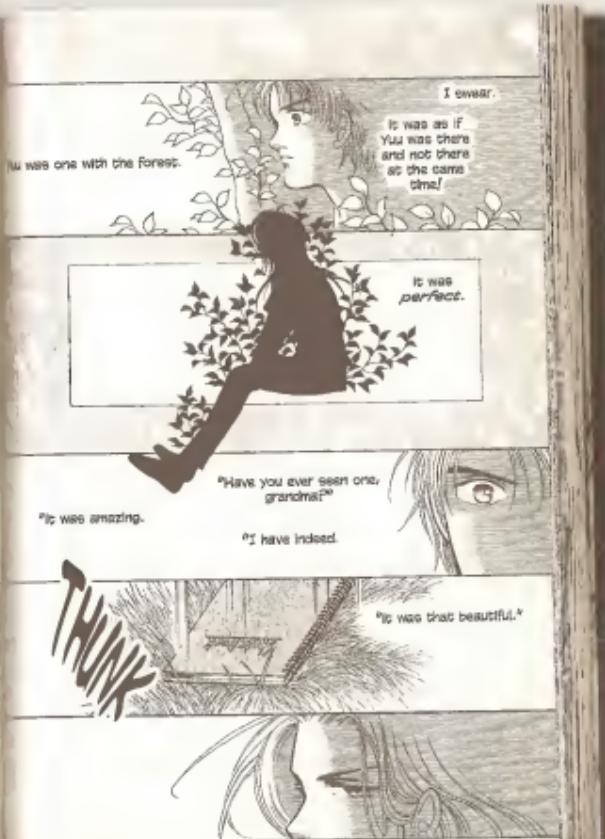
Classic case of do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do.



It was as if time
had stopped.

Everything
was perfectly
still.









Why was he even there to begin with?

He's out there sitting pretty while he tells us not to.



Calm down! Calm down!

YEAH... I DO.



I'm feeling a little more in control now.

But, for some reason, I'm also feeling pretty annoyed.

The guy was a scrappy twig.

I could've taken him with one hand.

Why'd I run?









I stopped going to the forest after that.

Shinokara wasn't around after that.



I did, however, get more depressed with every passing day.

I just wanted to get away from that place as fast as I could.



Something must be wrong with me.

Do I have him that much?

It's not him I want to kill.

Nah. It's not that.

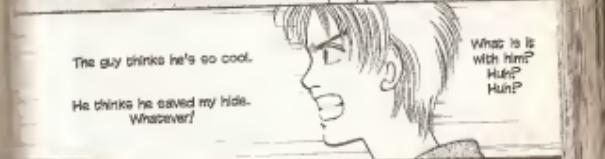
It's the guy that hit him.



YEAH, YEAH!
I HEARD YOU ALREADY!

AND, STAY AWAY FROM THE FOREST. IT REALLY IS DANGEROUS

6000



The guy thinks he's so cool.

He thinks he saved my hide. Whatever!

What is it with him? Huh? Huh? Huh?



LET'S GO OUT WITH A BANG!

LOOK AT IT GO!

CRANK UP THE MUSIC!

IT'S RIPPING NOW!



Why all this rage?

Who's eating away at me?

Why am I getting so worked up over some guy I've just met?

Something must be wrong with me.

YOU FEELING SICK AGAIN?

He should've stayed out of it if he thinks fighting is that so uncool. He got his by that idiot.



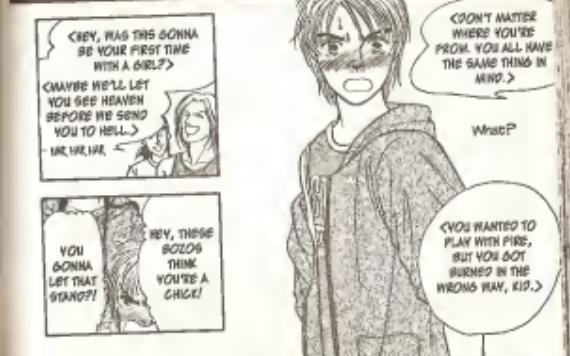




THE OTHER GUY'S CHOPPER GOING DOWN HERE WAS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED.





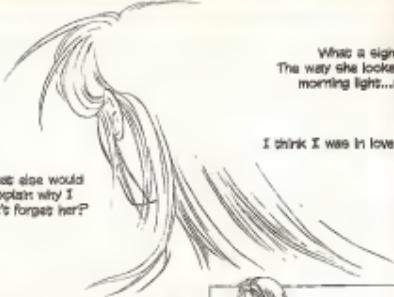












What else would explain why I can't forget her?

I think I was in love.

What a sight.
The way she looked in the morning light...man.

I'll just pretend I tripped out in the forest.

She isn't ordinary.
She's real, and yet she's not.
That's just the way she is.



Not that I can do anything about it.

I just never realized it because I thought she was a guy.

That was how my summer ended.

Or, so I thought.



I DUNNO.
IT WAS
CAUGHT IN MY
SKETCHBOOK.
WHAT ARE
THESE WEIRD
NUMBERS
AND STUFF?

WHAT'S THAT?

Forests are Filled with Wonder.

I think I understand now, grandma.
I think I know why you remember them because of the people you were with.

I swear that Forest looked brilliant.

NO, LONG TIME, TAKEBU.



GOOD MORNING TO YOU, TOO.

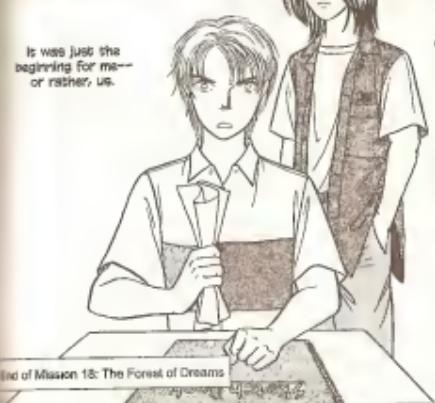
LEAVE ME ALONE.

SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IT MUST HAVE TOTALLY SUCKED WITH THOSE LITTLE KIDS.

HOW WAS THE CAMPING?

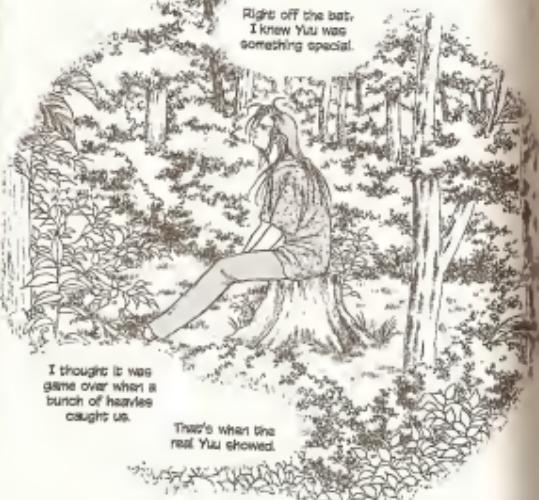
Come to think of it, maybe it was love.



I had a hard time
believing it was real

Yuu was always in
those woods.

Right off the bat,
I knew Yuu was
something special.



I thought it was
game over when a
bunch of heavies
caught us.

That's when the
real Yuu showed.

I thought I was in a dream.

Yuu took out these mercenaries like it
was nothing. Didn't need any help
either. But, that was nothing
compared to the real surprise.

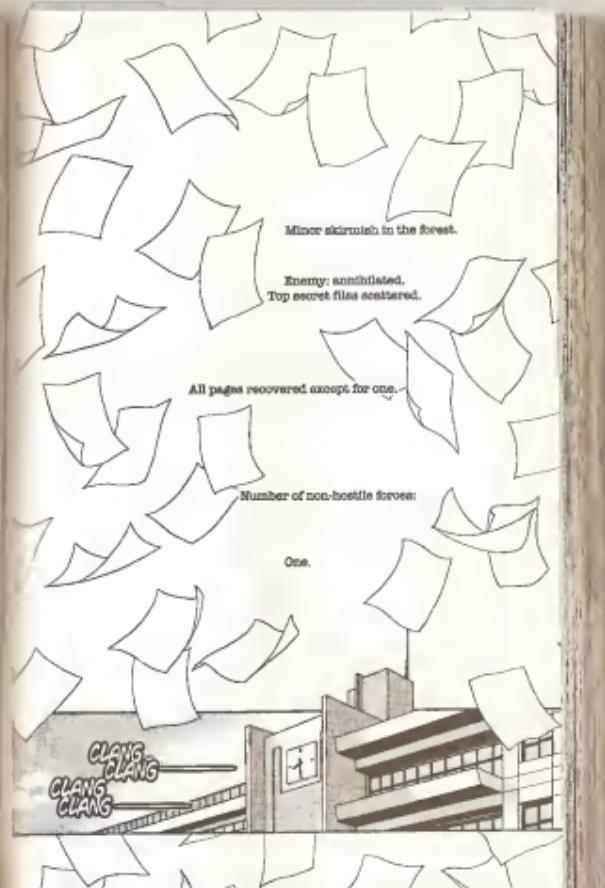
Yuu was a girl.





Mission 19: Omega - Part 1















HOW'S YOUR BROTHER DOIN' THESE DAYS?

WHAT? MAKOTO?

SOME DAYS HE'S GOOD. SOME DAYS HE'S NOT SO GOOD.

SO SO, I GUESS.

NAH, I'M GOING STRAIGHT HOME.

I'VE GOTTA GO BY THE HOSPITAL.

NOT YET.

ARE THEY GONNA OPERATE?

MY OLD MAN CAN'T DECIDE. THE DOG REALLY CAN'T SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

MY BRO' HAS A LESS THAN FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF SURVIVING.

I FEEL SORRY FOR THE LITTLE GUY.

HEAVY.

BESIDES, HE'S TOO WEAK TO UNDERGO AN OPERATION.

WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO NOW? WANNA DO OUT?



YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PHYSICAL.



MUST BE GREAT BEING SO SMART YOU CAN SKIP OUT ALL THE TIME.

THEY DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF SCHOOL.

I KNEW THOSE THREE WOULDN'T SHOW.

IT'S PRETTY BORING WITH JUST THE TWO OF US.

WE GOT OURS, THEY GOT THEIRS. GOOD ENOUGH, I SAY.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS. THEY ALWAYS COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE.





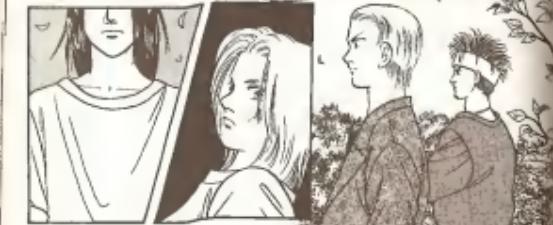


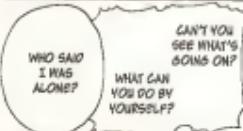














End of Mission 19: Omega - Part 1

Mission 19: Omega - Part 2







9番目の ムサシ

Mission 19: Omega - Part 2











